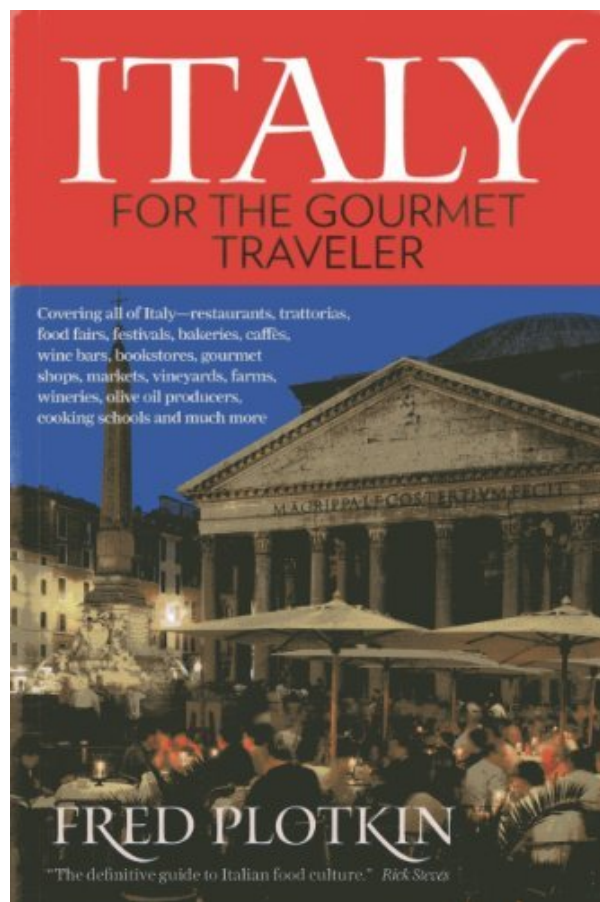


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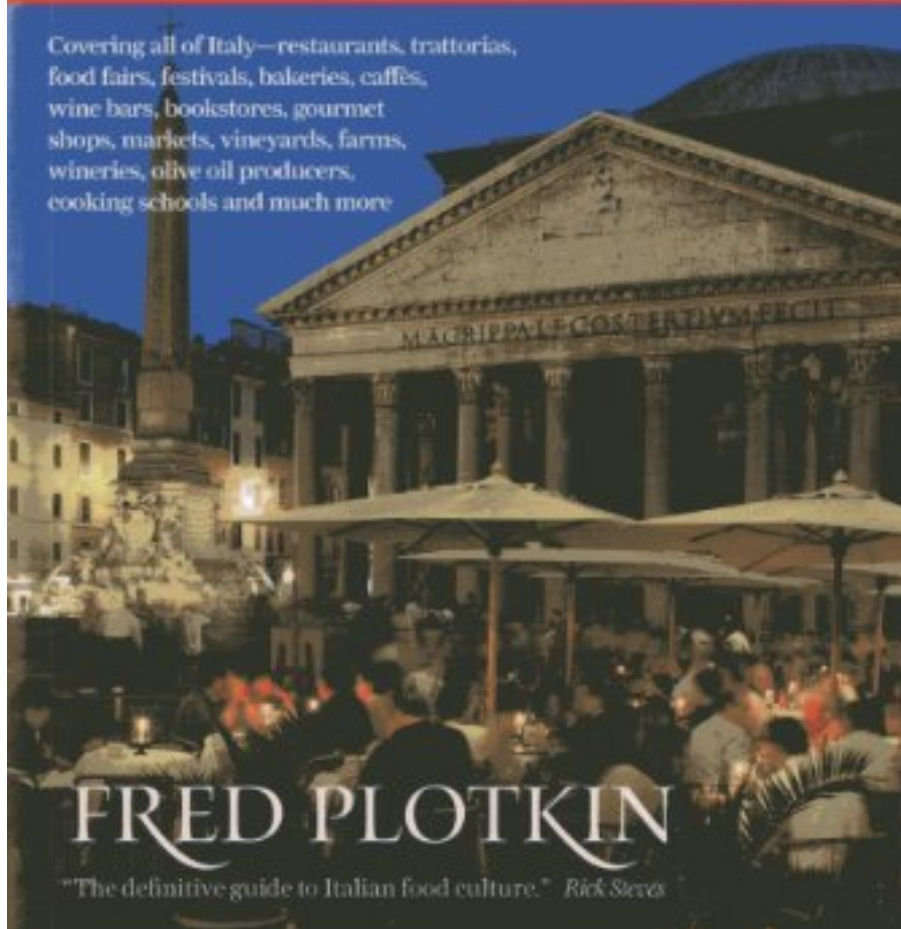
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- Published on: 1875
- Binding: Paperback

Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Informative book for research, but not for carrying on the road.

By sfvp

My biggest complaint about this book is its weight of 3 lb! To put it in perspective, my iPhone weighs 1/4 lb, my iPad Air weighs 1 lb, my 15" laptop weighs 4.5 lb. I am flying out to Italy in 2 days and now that I am packing for the trip, I have decided not to take this book with me on the road because of its weight. The value of this book just doesn't justify a space in my limited luggage space allowed by the airline. Considering this book was written for travelers, it really puzzles me as to why Fred didn't release a Kindle or iBook version of the book. That's rather inconsiderate to his readers, in my opinion.

As to the content of the book, I really like what Fred wrote about each region and it gave me some background and context in terms of what to focus on as I travel through northern Italy. The only thing that I found a bit strange is that he described many regions as the best place for food in Italy. Shouldn't there be only one best? Aside from that, each region's specialties are described well. I also like the fact that he didn't just talk about restaurants but also cafes, markets, and other food related points of interest.

What I have been doing for planning is to use this book as a starting point, and then cross reference check about the restaurants/markets on TripAdvisor.com, Chowhound.com, and 36-hour NYT travel articles. I also checked Lonely Planets and Anthony Bourdain's No Reservation show. This book served me really well giving me the background knowledge and context during planning. Now that I've bookmarked all the restaurants and markets I want to visit on TripAdvisor, I'll leave this book behind and pray that I'll remember as much background information in this book as I can when I'm in Italy.

Most of the negative reviews for this book has been about the inaccuracy of the restaurant information. I can't comment on that since I am not in Italy yet. However, I am visiting northern Italy, which the book seems to have more current information for. Also, the places that I am interested in visiting in the book, I've also checked tripadvisor and bookmarked them on the site. I am hoping that they are mostly accurate.

I really wish that the book had a more traveler-friendly format that I could carry with me on the road.

Depending on how long the food coma lasts after I come back from my trip, I will update my review as soon as I can. :-)

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Hard to leave this huge book at home...

By Veronica

OK, so maybe you don't want to lug this book all over Italy. But, despite its size, I'm actually considering it. Why?

The book begins with quite a few pages on Italy and its food and culinary traditions in general. Then it's broken down by region and further by cities that the well-traveled author selects as exemplary of each region.

Each region gets a few pages of general info--whatever this talented, entertaining writer selects as being integral to understanding that region and, therefore, the food. Then he describes the culinary traditions of that region--about its wine, cheese, or specialties and what you would expect to be served for each course. Then he lists specific places to go and usually writes comments about each one. That part is not structured: he may choose to tell about the food, the proprietor, the ambience, or whatever reason he is fond of it--usually something that makes my mouth water or makes me long to possess first-hand the nostalgia he communicates. Basically I assume that if this author chooses to include a place, it's worth a visit.

As far as trip planning is concerned, I've found this to have the best intro to each region in Italy of all my travel guides. (I'm not denigrating sight-seeing guides--you might have time to do something between meals, so get one of those, too.) His few pages on each region are not overwhelming and help introduce one to its unique flavor. Once I've selected the regions to travel to, I'll trust his selections of cities and places to visit.

It's not a map-and-pretty-pictures sort of travel guide--more like a friend in the know telling you what not to miss. It's even great armchair travel.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

To REALLY enjoy Italy, don't leave home without Foodie Fred along!

By Savvy Reader

This new version gets five cannoli! I always thought I was a rather modest authority on traveling and dining in Italy. But nay! Once upon a time, not TOO long ago, I had the pleasure of traveling throughout the Friuli area of Italy with this book's author, Fred Plotkin, who lives what he eats, and puts his pen to where his senses have been in drinking, dining, walking observing, shopping. I must admit, he's definitely the "go to" guy--this book is like him--a well prepared banquet of expertise on Italy...its areas, food, wine, customs, culture, where to dine, what to look for, why do they eat that, how they found it, tried it, make it, etc...Fred's the guy! His little notebook is never far from the end of his pen, and he stuffs it as full of ingredients and flavors as a mouth-watering bowl of minestrone. "Italy For the Gourmet Traveler" in this updated version has grown into a veritable Festa...a six pound, 700 page bundle of delightful banter and reliable, satisfying armchair snack crunching for the traveler, with drinking, shopping, local color and dining tips you'd want about every nook, cranny, crag, river or lake of the long boot of Bella Italia.

When I'm planning to revisit Italy, I consult the pages of Fred's book that are pertinent to my itinerary, copy them to take with me, and then find myself caught up and start re-reading other sections too! I recommend it to all my friends. It's a great book to own. A terrific value for the modest price. Don't go without Fred Plotkin or a Kindle copy along, or the pertinent pages of his book to consult along the way. If you're an armchair traveler, you'll enjoy this trip! Ciao!

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